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App. No. 10/777,667
Amdt. Dated January 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 6 2004
Atty. Dkt. No. 8590-101

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph

[0024] A clamp such as a foam clamp 54 in the form of a foam conveyor belt may be used to support the green onion 43 by clamping the stalk 45 to permit it to hang vertically from the clamp 54. The foam clamp 54 includes a pair of foam clamp members or belts 56 and 58 which grips and holds opposite sides of the stalk 45 to support the onion 43 in a generally vertical disposition as it is moved to and past the de-rooter 41. The conveyor clamp 54 translates the green onion 43 to the rotating de-rooter 41 for root removal on the fly. The de-rooter 41 includes a pair of rotating members in the form of pinch rollers 61 and 63 mounted for rotation about the respective horizontal axes 65 and 67. In this regard, the rollers 61 and 63 ~~65 and 67~~ are driven about their respective horizontal axes in opposite directions.

Please add following new paragraph after paragraph [0029]:

[0029.1] The term "singulated" as used herein may mean "singled out," and "singulating" may mean "one at a time."